

News Release

Chancellor Charles H. Casey Named to Prior Lake High School Hall of Fame

By Joanna Miller on Monday, July 30, 2007

Chancellor Honored in Laker Hall of Fame

By Joanna Miller, Staff Writer for the *Prior Lake American* newspaper

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Charles Casey never anticipated where his academic path would take him when he graduated as valedictorian of his 1957 Prior Lake High School class. "It was a small class," Casey said, recalling just more than 20 classmates.



Chancellor Charles H. Casey

Casey, a father of three, now lives in Fosston with his wife, Barbara Muesing, but he grew up in Credit River Township. He attended a country school house before coming to the high school. After graduation, he wasn't sure where his aspirations would take him.

"I didn't really have a career path," he said. "I wanted to go to college, and that's where I started." Casey attended the College of St. Thomas, as it was named at the time. He began as a chemistry major, but realized his heart was in veterinary medicine.

"I realized I liked the country, and at that time I decided to be a veterinarian," he said.

To pursue veterinary science, Casey transferred to the University of Minnesota's St. Paul campus in his second year of college. After graduating in 1963, he served as a captain in of the U.S. Army Veterinary Corps at Fort Chaffee, Ark., for two years.

He then worked as a veterinarian for 27 years at a practice in West Concord, about 70 miles outside of the Twin Cities. Through connections at the University of Minnesota, Casey was asked to become the director of veterinary outreach at the Uof MCollege of Veterinary Medicine in 1992.

"I've always been interested in education. It was a value my parents had," he said of professional successes in academia.

In 1999, he was offered an interim position as dean and director of the Uof M Extension Service, which became a permanent position until 2005. He left the position to become chancellor of the University of Minnesota, Crookston, his current role.

Casey said one career highlight has been to serve on the University of Minnesota Board of Regents from 1979-1991, holding positions as chairman from 1989 to 1991.

"I think that was just a tremendous opportunity and experience," he said.

On the board, Casey was also chairman of the educational planning and policy committee and faculty, staff and student affairs committee. While his breadth of experience is impressive, Casey has stayed grounded. "I was obviously very pleased they would see fit to recognize me," he saidof the Laker Hall of Fame nomination. "I've always been proud of the fact I graduated from PriorLake High School."

Of his nominators, Casey said they're neighbors who grew up out in the township, and one washed dishes with' him during lunchtime at school. "We'd get to leave a little early, have lunch, and wash dishes until the next class period," he recalled. "We were highly paid. We got all we could eat and one other lunch for a member of our family."

The Laker Hall of Fame awqard banquet and dimier will take place Thursday, Aug. 2, at The Wilds Golf Club, 3151 Wilds Ridge in Prior Lake. The dinner is open to the public and tickets cost \$24. Reservations are due by Wednesday July 25 to the PLHS activities office at (952)2268690 or ormhaugen@priorlakesavage.k12.mn.us.

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